

April 6, 1994

LB 72

reveals none which takes title to waste upon deposit in the facility. Some states do take title to waste upon termination of the facility and for what is commonly referred to as the custodial care period. This is also not federally required, however, and does not strike me as being necessary or advantageous to the state for the purpose of carrying out its regulatory duties during this period. I feel that this is an important bill which addresses a very important issue. I hope you are all taking an avid interest in the radioactive waste issue because there are interesting new developments on an almost daily basis. I feel that this issue and most particularly this proposed project is finally receiving the kind of logical, scientific and economical scrutiny it should have received long ago. I feel that we are very close to a return to the drawing board, so to speak, which is where we should have spent much more time and energy before entering into an arrangement which has caused great anguish for many citizens and led to the squandering of tens of millions of dollars. I ask for your advancement of LB 72 and for your continued attention to an issue that will remain before us for many years to come. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Further discussion on the advancement of LB 72? Senator Preister, followed by Senator Elmer.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Honorable President, friends all. I rise to point out a couple of things and to concur primarily with Senator Dierks. One I would highlight especially, that there has been an agreement reached on this particular bill with the utilities and all of the concerned individuals, the Governor's Office, that if there were no amendments put on this bill as it stands, there would be no opposition to it. I don't know how many times I went back and confirmed that with the interested parties and was reassured that that is the case; if there were no amendments put on this, it would go through. Currently we are the only state that takes title to the waste when it arrives at the facility for disposal. Senator Dierks said that and my staff and his staff have both confirmed that, and if anybody wants to verify that, we do have the information from each of those compact host states. This bill removes the provision that says the state takes title to the waste, doesn't deal with anything other than that, but that provision that says we, the State of Nebraska, take title to the waste. When LB 72 is passed, it will clarify that the state does not take title to